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Cass County has finalized 65 adoptions

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CASSOPOLIS - Cass County, in conjunction with the State of Michigan, will hold its fourth annual Adoption Day Tuesday, Nov. 21, at 3 p.m.

The event is sponsored by the Michigan Department of Human Services, the Michigan Supreme Court and each respective Family Court.

Since the last Adoption Day, there have been more than 65 adoptions finalized in Cass County.

Michigan celebrates adoptive families and efforts to place children into adoptive homes at the fourth annual Michigan Adoption Day on Nov. 21.

Along with the special celebration on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm proclaimed November as Adoption Month in Michigan and the Michigan Supreme Court issued a resolution declaring Nov. 21 as Michigan Adoption Day.

The Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE), the Michigan Supreme Court and the Michigan Department of Human Services co-sponsor the event.

Local courts, DHS county offices and private adoption agencies from across Michigan are collaborating on events that will include finalizing adoptions and parties for adoptive families. Some counties hold informational open houses with speakers and information about the adoption process.

While DHS and state courts strive to reunite children with their birth parents, doing so is not always in the child's best interest.

Courts may terminate parental rights in cases of child abuse and neglect.

In 2006, more than 4,400 children have adoption as part of their permanency plan and many of them have special needs as the result of physical, mental or emotional impairments.

Many children who are waiting for a family are older, members of minorities or have siblings. In fiscal year 2005, 2,883 children with special needs were adopted.

Anyone interested in adopting a child may contact MARE at (800) 589-6273 or visit the Web site at www.mare.org.

Adoption:

www.michigan.gov/dhs

Michigan Adoption Day: <http://courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/Press/MichiganAdoptionDayIndex.htm>.